

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original) A fluid dynamic bearing apparatus comprising a hydrodynamic groove region in which a plurality of hydrodynamic grooves are arranged, a smooth surface opposing the hydrodynamic groove region, and a bearing gap which is formed between the hydrodynamic groove region and the smooth surface and in which a fluid dynamic pressure is produced by relative rotation of a fixed side and a rotation side,

the smooth surface being defined by a step so that its length becomes shorter than that of the hydrodynamic groove region.

Claim 2 (Original) A fluid dynamic bearing apparatus according to claim 1 which further comprises a bearing sleeve and a shaft member, said bearing gap being formed between the inner circumferential surface of the bearing sleeve and the outer circumferential surface of the shaft member.

Claim 3 (Original) A fluid dynamic bearing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the shaft member is provided with a flange portion overhanging to the outer diameter side and said bearing gap is further formed between an end face of the flange portion and a face opposing the end face.

Claim 4 (Original) A fluid dynamic bearing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the hydrodynamic groove region is plastically processed by thrusting a pattern corresponding to its shape.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A motor having a fluid dynamic bearing apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 6 (New) A motor having a fluid dynamic bearing apparatus according to claim 2.

Claim 7 (New) A motor having a fluid dynamic bearing apparatus according to claim 3.

Claim 8 (New) A motor having a fluid dynamic bearing apparatus according to claim 4.